

XV. Oceanography - Government

*Section XV outlines plans for United States Antarctic Program
sponsored oceanographic expeditions during the 2000-2001 season.*

R/V NATHANIEL B. PALMER

The R/V NATHANIEL B. PALMER first arrived in the Antarctic Peninsula area in April 1992. The vessel is owned by Edison Chouest Offshore and is of United States Registry. The vessel will be on long-term charter to support the United States Antarctic Program. The R/V NATHANIEL B. PALMER is ice-class ABS A2, is 93.9 meters long, has a beam of 18.3 meters, a design draught of 6.9 meters, and displaces 6800 long tons. The vessel has 13,000 shaft horsepower driving two controllable pitch propellers. The vessel has a crew of 26 and accommodation for 39 scientists.

Research Capabilities.

The vessel is equipped with a satellite precision navigation system, side-looking and fish-finding sonar, INMARSAT communications, TeraScan, and HF and VHF transceivers. The vessel is equipped with Dynamic Positioning. A deep sea trawl and coring winch and two hydro-winches are operated through stern and starboard A-frames. One hydro-winch, equipped with electromechanical cable, leads through a baltic-room arrangement, protected from the weather. The vessel is equipped with multi-channel seismic capability, a swath multibeam bathymetric system called SeaBeam, and is equipped with laboratories totaling approximately 520 square meters, all located contiguously on the main deck. The vessel also has a suite of portable lab vans.

Ship's Master: Captain Joe Borkowski.

Scientific Programs in the Antarctic Treaty Area

The R/V NATHANIEL B. PALMER will conduct cruises in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica, for scientific research in the following disciplines: Physical and Chemical Oceanography, Marine Geology and Geophysics, and Marine Biology.

Intended Tracks and Schedule

The vessel is currently scheduled for work in the Weddell and the Ross Sea. Ports of call include: Punta Arenas and Talchano, Chile; Hobart, Australia; Capetown, South Africa; and, New Orleans and Fouchon, Louisiana. The vessel will make a hazardous waste transport from Palmer Station to the United States in August 2000.

R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD

The R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD first arrived in the Antarctic Peninsula in January, 1998, and is owned by Edison Chouest Offshore and is of United States Registry. The vessel will be on long-term charter to support the United States Antarctic Program. The R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD is ice-class ABS A1, is 14.02 meters, has a design draught of 5.48 and displaces 3400 long tons. She will be a multidisciplinary research platform, designed for year-round operations in Polar regions.

Research Capabilities

The vessel is equipped with a satellite precision navigation system, side-looking and fish-finding sonar, INMARSAT communications and HF and VHF transceivers. A deep sea trawl winch and two hydro-winches are to be operated through a stern A-frame and starboard side-hydro davits. Various over-the-side sampling equipment will be handled through use of an articulated Hiab crane on the ship's fantail. The vessel will also have single channel seismic capability. In addition, it is equipped with laboratories totaling 99 square meters and an additional 27 square meters in portable laboratory vans. Zodiacs are available for ship-to-shore transport and sample collection.

Ship's Master: Captain Warren Sanamo

Scientific Programs in the Antarctic Treaty Area

The R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD will support research during 2000-2001 season that includes biological, chemical, and physical oceanography as well as marine geology and geophysics. The R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD will also provide logistic support to transport scientists, cargo, and personnel to/from Palmer Station.

Intended Tracks and Schedule

The R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD will transport support personnel to and from Palmer Station, provide research support, and enter a routine maintenance period, the month of August in Talcahuano, Chile. The vessel will perform approximately 19 cruises in the Antarctic Peninsula area during 2000-2001 season. The vessel will assist with the hazardous waste transport from Palmer Station in July 2000.